

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10067 101126Z  
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 EA-09 /017 W  
-----101131Z 112668 /11

O 101030Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1948

UNCLAS BANGKOK 10067

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CDES CO (GANEK, DAVID LEWIN)  
SUBJ: DEATH CASE: DAVID LEWIN GANEK

REF: STATE 105499

1. FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CHIANG MAI REPEATED DEPART-  
MENT FOR ACTION:

2. WHAT FOLLOWS IS (TO BEST OF CONSULATE'S KNOWLEDGE)  
REPORT OF FACTS IN DEATH CASE OF DAVID LEWIN GANEK.  
WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY, AND  
HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THAI AUTHORITIES DAILY.

3. GANEK WAS STAYING AT J'TAIME GUEST HOME IN  
CHIANG MAI. J'TAIME IS A DORMITORY TYPE HOSTEL,  
POPULAR WITH YOUNG TRAVELERS ON LIMITED BUDGETS. BEDS  
CAN BE HAD FOR 60 CENTS A NIGHT.

4. GANEK'S DEATH FIRST REPORTED TO CONSULATE BY  
PATRONS OF J'TAIME. PROVINCIAL POLICE LATER CONFIRMED  
THAT GANEK WAS DEAD AND SENT EFFECTS AND PASSPORT TO  
CONSULATE. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY.

5. THAILAW REQUIRES ISSUANCE OF DEATH REPORT WITHIN  
24 HOURS. EXAMINING PHSICIAN THUS FORCED TO LIST CAUSE  
OF DEATH PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF AUTOPSY. ON  
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BASIS PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF BODY, CONSUMPTION  
PESTICIDE WAS GIVEN AS CAUSE OF DEATH. (NOTE:  
SUICIDE BY INGESTING PESTICIDE IS A VERY COMMON  
FORM OF SUICIDE IN NORTHERNTHAILAND). SUBSEQUENT  
AUTOPSY RULED THIS OUT, ALONG WITH OVERDOSE OF  
HEROIN.

6. AFTER NEARLY TWO WEEKS, AUTOPOSY COMPLETED YESTERDAY (MAY 9). DR. SUNTHORN CHOMNAN OF DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, FACULTY OF MEDICINE, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY INDICATED DEATH CAUSED BY OVERDOSE OF METROBAMATE, A BARBITUATE. WRITTEN AUTOPSY REPORT NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT WE ARE HOPING TO OBTAIN COPY TODAY, AND WILL AIR POUCH TO DEPARTMENT ASAP.

7. PERSONAL JOURNAL INDICATES GANEK WAS TRAVELLING ALONE. PERSONS REPORTING HIS DEATH WERE PERSONS HE MET AT J'TAIME. THEY STOPPED AT CONSULATE A SECOND TIME SEVERAL DAYS AFTER HIS DEATH AND TOLD US THEY WOULD BE LEAVING THE AREA THE FOLLOWING DAY.

8. AT THE TIME OF SECOND INTERVIEW, GANEK'S ACQUAINTANCES DESCRIBED HIS LAST HOURS, NOTING THAT HE WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS, WELL-LIKED AND "FULL OF LIFE." THEY SAID GANEK HAD BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH DRUGS, AND HIS JOURNAL CONFIRMS THIS. THEY ALSO SAID A NUMBER OF GUESTS AT J'TAIME POSSESSED DRUGS, INCLUDING HEROIN. SEVERAL DAYS LATER THE THAI POLICE RAIDED THE HOSTEL AND ARRESTED 3 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONE AUSTRALIAN FOR POSSESSION OF HEROIN.

9. THAI PRESS DID NOT GIVE DEATH HEAVY PLAY. TWO CHIANG MAI DAILIES EACH COVERED THE STORY WITH ONE PICTURE OF THE BODY AND A SHORT ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE. THEY CALLED THE DEATH A SUICIDE, BUT IMPLIED IT RESULTED FROM DRUG USE. ONE REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE DEATH APPEARED IN THAI-LANGUAGE BANGKOK DAILY. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BANGKOK POST RAN ONE HIHGLY INACCURATE PARAGRAPH. NONE OF THE PAPERS HAS PRINTED A FOLLOW-UP STORY. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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